The Coir Board is undertaking various schemes for the development of coir industry in all the coconut growing States including Andhra Pradesh. Following programmes have been implemented for the development of coir industry:

(i) Research and Development;

(ii) Training, Extension, Quality Improvement, Mahila Coir Yojana and Welfare Measures;

(iii) Development of Production infrastructure;

(iv) Domestic Market Development;

(v) Export Market Promotion;

(vi) Trade Information Service, Information Technology and Strengthening of Head Quarters; and

(vii) Cooperativisation;

(d) and (e) As a part of skill development, the Coir Board, during 2003-04, had imparted training to 150 coir workers in spinning coir yarn on motorized ratts/motorized traditional ratts with a monthly stipend at the rate of Rs. 500/-. Trainers had been given Honorarium of Rs. 3000/- per month during the training period. Under the scheme of Mahila Coir Yojana, the trainees who had successfully completed the training were provided motorized ratts/motorized traditional ratts at 75% cost subsidy. During 2003-04 motorised ratts had been distributed to 10 coir workers and a subsidy of Rs. 69,000/- were released for the purpose.

Exploration of mineral sand in Kerala

2390. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the joint venture project participating NMDP, IRE and KSIDC for the exploration of mineral sand of Chavara in Kerala stands at present; and

(b) the progress attained in the proposal so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has conducted a market survey. The projected market potential being not very encouraging, NMDC is exploring the possibility of advance sales tie up before taking up test work and preparation of project report.

Nuclear island

2391. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to make "Koodankulam" a Nuclear island;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Koodankulam Atomic Power Station would start supplying power and what would be its capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Two nuclear power reactors of 1000 MW each are presently under construction at Koodankulam, Tamil Nadu in co-operation with the Russian Federation. The site has potential for setting up additional units.

(c) The commercial operation of the units is planned for December 2007 and December 2008 respectively, and the station capacity by December 2008 will be 2000 MW.

Transfer of officials in NCL

†2392. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those group A and B officials in Jayant project of Northern Coal Fields Limited, Madhya Pradesh who have been working in the same sections against the same posts and for the last 3,5 or 7 years separately;

(b) the rules regarding the transfer of officials and engineers working in Coal India;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.